

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-06
/065 W

-----191158Z 117162 /21

R 181802Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4466
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 1291

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, PLAB, ENGR
SUBJECT: STRIKE AT ESSO REFINERY

1. WORKERS AT JAMAICA'S ONLY REFINERY WENT ON STRIKE MARCH
17 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXPIRATION OF THEIR CONTRACT.
WORKERS ARE PROTESTING THE ESSO MANAGEMENT'S ALLEGED FAILURE
TO LIVE UP TO THE TERMS OF THE PREVIOUS CONTRACT (AN
OVERTIME DISPUTE) AND TO PRESS FOR A 30 PERCENT WAGE
INCREASE.

2. MINISTRY OF LABOR HAD RECOMMENDED THAT PREVIOUS CON-
TRACT BE EXTENDED TWO WEEKS TO ALLOW TIME FOR NEGOTIA-
TION. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED BY ESSO MANAGEMENT AND
BY NATIONAL WORKERS UNION LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, UNION
LEADERS WERE UNABLE TO SWAY WORKERS AND STRIKE WAS
APPROVED BY VOTE LATE MARCH 16.

3. THIRTY PERCENT WAGE INCREASE BEING DEMANDED BY
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STRIKERS WILL EXCEED WAGE GUIDELINES ABOUT TO BE PUT
INTO EFFECT BY GOJ. (WE UNDERSTAND GUIDELINES
WOULD LIMIT INCREASE TO ABOUT 11 PERCENT IN THIS CASE.)

4. ESSO SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL ARE
OPERATING REFINERY AND HAVE CAPABILITY TO CONTINUE
DOING SO FOR TWO WEEKS OR LONGER. THEREFORE,

THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO FUEL SHORTAGE.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WAGE DISPUTE SHOULD PROVIDE
INFORMATIVE FIRST TEST OF HOW STRONG GOVERNMENT WILL
BE IN ENFORCING WAGE CONTROLS.

GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, REFINERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST01291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-1094
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770346/aaaabnva.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c00beeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3068797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRIKE AT ESSO REFINERY
TAGS: EGEN, ELAB, ENRG, ESSO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c00beeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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